

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

[[a]] means for detecting speech of a user who is reading out loud;

[[a]] means for evaluating the user's reading skill based on an output of a speech recognizer that is coupled to the detecting means, wherein the evaluating means computes a score based on factors extracted from the output of the speech recognizer and at least one correct response, wherein the factors are selected from the group consisting of insertions, deletions, substitutions, pauses, stretching out letters, and stretching out sounds, and wherein the at least one correct response is determined from sample responses provided by sample speakers; and

[[a]] means for making recommendations of books to read based on the evaluating means.
2. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user is reading out loud from a book and further comprising means for adjusting a difficulty level profile of [[a]] the book based on the evaluating means being read.
3. (original) The system of Claim 2, wherein the book is an electronic book.
4. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for providing feedback to the user.
5. (original) The system of Claim 4, wherein the feedback is a progress report.

6. (original) The system of Claim 4, wherein the feedback is a comparison with peers.
7. (original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising means for providing marketing data.
8. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
 - a speech recognition system operable to provide an estimate of speech;
 - an evaluation device operable to convert the estimate of speech into a score based on factors extracted from the estimate of speech and at least one correct response, wherein the at least one correct response is determined from sample responses provided by sample speakers;
 - and
 - a recommendation device operable to use the score to provide a recommendation of books to read.
9. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the speech recognition system estimates linguistic content of the speech.
10. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the estimate of speech is a sequence of words in a machine recognizable format.
11. (original) The system of Claim 10, wherein the machine recognizable format is ASCII.
12. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the evaluation device includes a response database.

13. (currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the response database includes [[a]] the at least one correct response.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the score is calculated using Item Response Theory.

17. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein the score is a number of differences between the estimate of speech and [[a]] the at least one correct response.

18. (currently amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein a user is reading from an electronic book and the recommendation device is operable to use the score to adjust a difficulty level profile of [[an]] the electronic book.

19. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide feedback to a user.

20. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide marketing data.

21. (original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the recommendation device accesses at least one database.
22. (original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the at least one database includes a book database.
23. (original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the book database contains several versions of a book.
24. (currently amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein the several versions of the book include versions of the book with different difficulty level profiles.
25. (original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the book database contains a memory pointer capable of tracking in several versions of a book where a user is reading.
26. (original) The system of Claim 25, wherein the several versions of the book contain linkage points.
27. (original) The system of Claim 26, wherein the recommendation device uses the linkage points to switch between the several versions of the book.

28. (original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the at least one database includes a user database.
29. (original) The system of Claim 28, wherein the user database includes data selected from the group consisting of user identification, history of evaluations, history of books read, user preferences, and responses to questions.
30. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a speech recognition system operable to provide an estimate of linguistic content of speech, and wherein the estimate is a sequence of words in a machine recognizable format;
an evaluation device operable to convert the estimate of the linguistic content of speech into an item score by tracking a number of insertions, deletions, and substitutions needed to convert the speech into at least one correct response, wherein the item score is calculated using Item Response Theory and ~~wherein the item score is a number of differences between speech and a correct response~~, and wherein the at least one correct response is determined from sample responses provided by sample speakers; and
a recommendation device operable to use the item score to provide a recommendation of books to read, wherein the recommendation device accesses a book database containing several versions of a book, and wherein the recommendation device accesses a user database.
31. (currently amended) The system of Claim 30, wherein a user is reading out loud from an electronic book and the recommendation device is operable to use the item score to adjust a difficulty level profile of [[an]] the electronic book.

32. (original) The system of Claim 30, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide feedback to a user.

33. (original) The system of Claim 30, wherein the recommendation device is operable to provide marketing data.

34. (currently amended) A method of providing an automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

reading text into a speech detector;

estimating linguistic content of the text as read, wherein the estimate is a data stream that represents a user's speech;

converting the estimate into a score based on factors extracted from the estimate and at least one correct response, wherein the at least one correct response is determined from sample responses provided by sample speakers; and

providing a recommendation of books to read based on the score.

35. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein the user is reading out loud from an electronic book and further comprising adjusting a difficulty level profile of ~~[[an]]~~ the electronic book.

36. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, further comprising providing feedback to ~~[[a]]~~ the user.

37. (original) The method of Claim 34, further comprising providing marketing data.
38. (original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the speech detector converts speech into electrical signals.
39. (original) The method of Claim 38, wherein a speech recognition system uses the electrical signals to estimate the linguistic content of speech.
40. (previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the score is calculated using Item Response Theory.
41. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein the score is a number of differences between the estimate of linguistic content ~~speech~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ the at least one correct response.
42. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a client device including a display and a speech detector; and
a server device operable to detect speech from a user reading from a book presented on the display, wherein the server device evaluates the speech based on factors extracted from the detected speech and at least one correct response, wherein the factors comprise at least one of insertions, deletions, and substitutions needed to convert a response from the user into the at least one correct response, wherein the at least one correct response is determined from sample

responses provided by sample speakers, and wherein the server device provides recommendations of books to read to the user.

43. (original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the display is a device selected from the group consisting of a wireless handheld device, a personal digital assistant, a monitor, a personal computer, a digital data reader, an electronic book, and a document.

44. (original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the speech detector is a device selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a mobile telephone, a microphone, and a voice transducer.

45. (original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the client device communicates with the server device using a network.

46. (original) The system of Claim 45, wherein the network is a public switched telephone network.

47. (original) The system of Claim 45, wherein the network is a packet-switched network.

48. (currently amended) The system of Claim 42, wherein the server device adjusts a difficulty level profile of an electronic book while the user is reading the electronic book.

49. (original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the server device provides feedback to the user.
50. (original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the server device provides marketing data.
51. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
- a database of electronic books;
 - a client device associated with the database, wherein the client device includes a display and a speech detector; and
 - a recommendation module associated with at least one of the client device and the database, wherein the recommendation module recommends electronic books from the database based upon a user's reading level, wherein the user's reading level is determined by computing a score based on factors extracted from a user's response and at least one correct response, wherein the factors comprise at least one of insertions, deletions, and substitutions needed to convert the user's response into the at least one correct response, and wherein the at least one correct response is determined from sample responses provided by sample speakers.
52. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
- [[a]] means for detecting speech of a user who is reading an electronic book out loud;
 - [[a]] means for evaluating the user's reading skill based upon the user reading out loud; and
 - [[a]] means for adjusting a difficulty level profile of the electronic book while the user is reading the electronic book based on the evaluating means.

53. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:
a speech recognition system operable to provide an estimate of speech;
an evaluation device operable to convert the estimate of speech into a score; and
a recommendation device operable to use the score to adjust a difficulty level profile of an
electronic book while a user of the automatic reading system is reading the electronic book.
54. (previously presented) The system of Claim 53, wherein the recommendation device
accesses at least one database.
55. (previously presented) The system of Claim 54, wherein the at least one database includes a
book database.
56. (previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the book database contains several
versions of a book.
57. (currently amended) The system of Claim 56, wherein the several versions of the book
include versions of the book with different difficulty level profiles.
58. (previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the book database contains a
memory pointer capable of tracking in several versions of a book where a user is reading.
59. (previously presented) The system of Claim 58, wherein the several versions of the book
contain linkage points.

60. (previously presented) The system of Claim 59, wherein the recommendation device uses the linkage points to switch between the several versions of the book.

61. (currently amended) A method of providing an automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

reading text from an electronic book out loud into a speech detector;

estimating linguistic content of the text as read;

converting the estimate into a score; and

adjusting a difficulty level profile of the electronic book in accordance with the score while the electronic book is being read.

62. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

a client device including a display and a speech detector; and

a server device operable to detect speech from a user reading out loud from an electronic book, wherein the server device evaluates the speech, and wherein the server device adjusts a difficulty level profile of the electronic book while the user is reading the electronic book.

63. (currently amended) An automatic reading system, comprising in combination:

a database of electronic books;

a client device associated with the database, wherein the client device includes a display and a speech detector; and

a recommendation module associated with at least one of the client device and the database, wherein the recommendation module adjusts a difficulty level profile of the electronic books based upon a user's reading level while the electronic books are being read by a user of the automatic reading system.

64. (new) The system of Claim 8, wherein the factors include the number of insertions, deletions, and substitutions needed to convert the output of the speech recognizer into the correct response.

65. (new) The system of Claim 8, wherein the factors include pauses, stretching out letters, and stretching out sounds.

66. (new) The system of Claim 34, wherein the factors include the number of insertions, deletions, and substitutions needed to convert the output of the speech recognizer into the correct response.

67. (new) The system of Claim 34, wherein the factors include pauses, stretching out letters, and stretching out sounds.